



ALA MOANA/KAKAAKO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 11

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
PHONE (808) 527-5749 • FAX (808) 527-5760 • INTERNET <http://www.honolulu.gov>

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2006

MAKIKI CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CALL TO ORDER: Chair John Breinich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Breinich, Robert Fowler, Nancy Hedlund, Larry Hurst, Joyce Kurtz, Marilyn Michaels, Dyane Sih.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Gerard (excused).

GUESTS: Joan Manke (Mayor's Representative/NCO), Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Shawn Hamamoto (Councilmember Rod Tam's office), Dr. Chihome Fukino (Governor's Representative/DOH), Senator Carol Fukunaga, Mandie Pearson (Senator Fukunaga's office), Senator Gordon Trimble, Representative Bev Harbin, Representative Anne Stevens, Acting Captain Wayne Masuda (HFD), Capt. Carlton Nishimura and Sgt. Albert Lee (HPD), Howard Tanaka (BWS), James Burke (Department of Transportation Services), Daniel Dinell (HCDA), Pat Lee (Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project), Mark Tonini (Meadow Gold), Jeff Dinsmore (General Growth), Tom Brower (Waikiki Neighborhood Board), Karl Rhoads (Downtown Neighborhood Board), Robert Kessler (Let Honolulu Vote), Heidi Byrne (Hawai'i Literacy), Dexter Sensui (Sheridan Citizen Patrol), Hyo Sook Choi and Keith Kiuchi (Choi's Restaurant), Alice Bratton, James and Jane Gay, Roy Gritter, Jack Hamada, Chester Ludwig, Dexter Okada, Richard Quinn, Fred N., Kristi Su-Ako, Sonia Trimble, Collin Wong, Steve J. Rodrigues (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT: Acting Captain Wayne Masuda reported: 1) For the month of January, the Pawaa Fire Station responded to 33 fires and 174 medical emergencies. 2) Safety Tip: "Every home should have a WORKING smoke detector installed near each sleeping area and on every level. Since cooking vapors and steam can set off a smoke detector, the detector should be located away from the kitchen or bathroom. Wall-mounted detectors should be positioned 4 to 12 inches below the ceiling and away from air vents. 3) The following results are from a survey conducted of 80,000 elementary school students in which almost 48,000 responded: 87% of the homes had smoke detectors and 2% were not certain whether one existed. Of the 87%, 67% of the families tested their detectors that month and only 71% of the smoke detectors were operational. This survey enforced our belief that "Every home should have a WORKING smoke detector installed near each sleeping area and on every level."

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT: Sgt. Albert Lee gave a report on the statistics for January and December: 5/9 robberies; 23/31 burglaries; 80/88 UEMV (unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle); 36/25 auto thefts; 4/4 aggravated assaults; 34/41 simple assaults; 209/266 motor vehicle collisions; 27/23 DUI; 2/8 sex assault; 18/26 family offenses; 51/47 drug offenses, 1/3 graffiti.

Capt. Carlton Nishimura announced that he is being reassigned. Assistant Chief Michael Tucker will be returning to this district. The new commander will be Randy Macadangdang.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Chair Breinich mentioned he has received a lot of telephone calls from angry residents regarding tents erected at Ala Moana Beach Park by the homeless. Residents are not able to use the park and in some instances park users are being accosted. There will be backlash from the visitor industry. Resident Roy Gritter said there are four tents in one area and five in another area. Hedlund had the same concerns for the promenade. Sgt. Lee stated two officers on ATV's are assigned to the park and they have been issuing citations for illegal camping and trespassing. Usually, if these individuals do show up for their court date, the judge will issue community service. Capt. Nishimura added it's an ongoing problem. Officers are only able to cite for criminal infractions. Last year, they issued over 1,500 citations. If defendants do show up in court,



the judge would not issue fines since most of them are homeless and have no money. Michaels inquired about park closure. Capt. Nishimura stated it's not possible since the park is bounded by the beach and that would restrict access for fishermen, etc.

- 2) Fowler commended HPD for their efforts with federal drug cases. Two "king pins" were recently arrested at Sam Sung Plaza.
- 3) Hurst had concerns about graffiti. Capt. Nishimura noted there are several agencies to call. For State – State Highway Division; telephone poles – TelCom; lightpoles – State.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – Howard Tanaka reported: 1) There were three main breaks in the district in January (January 29 – Makaloa Street; January 30 – Kapiolani Boulevard; and January 31 – Atkinson Drive) and one thus far in February (February 22 – corner of Pensacola and Kamaile Streets). 2) There are no ongoing water construction projects. Kapiolani Boulevard Water and Sewer Improvement Project – bid opened on December 6. The bid for the water portion was higher than estimated, but an independent cost estimate confirmed the higher costs quoted by the contractor. They amended the capital budget yesterday and will award contract. Construction is expected to begin this summer. 3) The deadline to submit entries to BWS 2006 Water Conservation Week Poster Contest is March 9. This year's theme is "Each and Every Day I Save Water My Way." 4) March 5-11 is Detect-A-Leak Week. BWS is asking everyone to check for and repair leaks at home and at work. He circulated promotional flyers and leak detection dye tablets for toilets. 5) Water Saving Tip: "By turning off the water while your brush your teeth, you can save as much as two gallons of water each time."

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 24, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The Board approved the minutes as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kurtz read the Financial Statement for the period ending January 31, 2006. The Operating Account expenses were \$44.82, leaving a balance of \$1,225.99. The Publicity Account did not incur any expenses, leaving the balance at \$1,770.00. The Refreshment Account did not incur any expenses, leaving the balance at \$120.00. The report was accepted subject to audit.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:

Let Honolulu Vote – Robert Kessler circulated a petition to amend the City Charter that would allow voters to place tax questions on future City and County ballots. For more information, call 922-6188 or visit www.letonoluluvote.org.

Blocked Sidewalks – A resident said there are bulky items on the sidewalk in his neighborhood. Chair Breinich suggested calling HPD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND KEY ORGANIZATIONS:

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Filling of Vacancy in Subdistrict 1 – Chair Breinich asked if there were any candidates to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict 1. There were no willing candidates present.

Hawai'i Literacy – Heidi Byrne stated since 1971, Hawai'i Literacy has helped thousands of adults learn basic reading and writing skills to get better jobs, improve their parenting skills, and succeed in life. Approximately one in five adults in Hawai'i are functionally illiterate. For more information, call 537-6706 or visit www.HawaiiLiteracy.org.

Bus Stop Realignment Project – James Burke of the City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) reported they are realigning bus stop placement for safer streets and more efficient bus service. All bus stops are being evaluated. A number of bus stops on Kapiolani Boulevard will be discontinued. King, Beretania, and Waimanu are the next streets on the list. HPD is opposed to mid-block bus stops because it encourages bus

riders to jaywalk. An announcement will be made in the daily newspapers. If you don't want specific bus stop(s) to be discontinued, please call 523-4582.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Michaels mentioned that the King Street issue is later on the agenda. Burke requested to be placed on March's agenda.
- 2) Michaels asked about realigning Ala Moana Boulevard. Burke answered DTS is working with General Growth Properties regarding relocating bus stops on their property. The intent is to keep pedestrians from jaywalking on Kapiolani Boulevard. DTS will be notifying the public through the media.

Choi's Restaurant – Keith Kiuchi, representing Choi's Restaurant, stated the owners of Choi's Restaurant previously applied for a liquor license but they were denied. Because they were unsuccessful, he suggested to the owners that they come before the Neighborhood Board and address any concerns before reapplying. He's aware that area residents have opposed the liquor license application.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Hurst said that the Board opposed the liquor license because of noise and parking. He continues to see the same problems. Another concern is the high amount of motor vehicle collisions in the district. Chair Breinich noted that the Board is not allowed to take any action on this issue since it's not on the agenda.
- 2) Kurtz inquired about the service bar. Kiuchi stated the service bar is to accommodate meals. The premises (a previous establishment) had a liquor license back in the 1990's.
- 3) Sih stated the problem is half of Cedar Street is zoned BMX (business mixed use) and the other half is residential. One of the residents called the Liquor Commission because of the noise made by the dumping of bottles. The Commission didn't take any action because Choi's Restaurant didn't have a liquor license. This is the sixth time that this address has applied for a liquor license. Another concern is the noise patrons make after they leave the establishment. Hedlund added that the noise would only get worse with a liquor license. Kiuchi said he would support limiting liquor sales. Hyo Sook Choi indicated that they could close at 11:00 p.m.
- 4) Kurtz mentioned an establishment on Amana Street was granted a liquor license six to eight years ago, they close by 11:00 p.m. and they haven't had any problems. She said it would help if you could control when you throw out your empty beer bottles.
- 5) In response to Hurst, Kiuchi stated they are applying for a Dispenser General – Restaurant Category Liquor License. Hurst said Liquor License Rule 45-2 prohibits going to Cabaret. Kiuchi noted that the Liquor Commission has not approved a Cabaret License outside of Waikiki the past four years.
- 6) Kurtz inquired how long Choi's Restaurant has been in business. Kiuchi answered four years.
- 7) Chair Breinich said you can expect residents living within 500 feet of the restaurant to have a petition opposing the license. Kiuchi indicated it costs between \$3,000-\$4,000 to apply for a liquor license so they wanted to come to the Board first.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Sih had no report.

LAND DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE:

Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) – Daniel Dinell stated: 1) Improvement District (ID) 11 – begins next month. HCDA will be meeting with all the business owners on Queen and Kamakee Streets and Ward Avenue. 2) Kewalo Basin – community planning efforts identified: a) making an entrance into Kewalo Basin; b) building a restroom facility at the Ewa-end of the one-story commercial building. At tomorrow's HCDA meeting, there will be a proposal to do a design-build for the restroom facility. HCDA is bringing a lot of people in the process (i.e. Friends of Kewalo Basin, etc.).

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Hedlund asked if there are any solutions to area businesses due to ID 11. Dinell explained that it's part of the systematic approach to improvements. Things have been done for the small business. Not everyone is happy. There is a fairness issue because HCDA charges businesses on Cooke Street. Assessments are not done until six months after the project is completed and there is a 20-year plan to pay. HCDA needs to acquire two-feet of land on both sides of the street. It costs about \$155 per square foot. The project will take 18-24 months to complete. Construction will be done in quadrooms. HCDA is requiring the contractor to keep two-way traffic. The last permit they need is parking, which they will get at the end of the project. Parking will be parallel. Parking for businesses will be provided free of charge during construction.
- 2) Michaels had concerns about traffic caused by ID 11. Dinell stated there would be no construction during rush hour. They have acquired a permit to work at night.
- 3) A resident questioned what is the process if human remains are found. Dinell said they would immediately stop construction and notify the State Historical Preservation Office.
- 4) A business owner said the assessments are for bigger land area. He mentioned the parking has been there before HCDA. HCDA does provide parking, but it's a matter of providing convenient parking. Businesses were never consulted.
- 5) Councilmember Kobayashi asked if any permits are needed from the City. Dinell answered they received permits for some of the sections. The City has signed-off on certain plans, but not the entire project. They can proceed on portions of the project.

Victoria Ward – Jeff Dinsmore said demolition on the Ward Shops have begun. Test piling will continue for another week. Construction will last 24 months. Parking has been impacted.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION – Michaels had no report.

Nordstrom Construction – Dinsmore stated the Keeaumoku Street ramp into Ala Moana Shopping Center is being rerouted. You will not be able drive or walk on Keeaumoku Street. Demolition will occur March 6-20. Traffic guards will be posted. Construction will last 18-24 months. They are working with all the merchants.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Hedlund had concerns about the huge volume of vehicles. Dinsmore said it's one of the things that they are looking into. One of the problems is that you have four lanes of traffic to cross instead of two. The relocation of the bus stop will decrease pedestrian traffic. They encourage using Waimanu, Atkinson, and Ala Moana entrances. Barriers have been put up around the construction area. They have been working with Senator Fukunaga and Councilmember Kobayashi.
- 2) Kurtz inquired about temporary crosswalks on Kona Street. Dinsmore said they would have traffic guards posted. It's work in progress. In response to Michaels about the traffic pattern, Dinsmore stated Kona Street will remain open.

Traffic Signal at Kamakee and Queen Streets – Dinell said the intersection of Kamakee and Queen Streets warrants a traffic signal. It's in the Improvement District budget. Generally, the traffic signal is not installed until after the project is completed. They would have to work with the City.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Chair Breinich mentioned the intersection is getting more and more dangerous.
- 2) Michaels spoke to area residents and they support the traffic signal.

Michaels moved and Hedlund seconded that the Ala Moana/Kakaako Neighborhood Board No. 11 support turning on the traffic signal at Kamakee and Queen Streets as soon as it is feasible. The motion carried unanimously. Dinell suggested writing the letter to Ty Fukumoto of DTS.

H-1 Lunalilo On-Ramp – Fred N. asked the Board to support a resolution requesting the State Department of Transportation (DOT) to construct a Lunalilo Street overpass, underpass, or other traffic separation alternative.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Chair Breinich asked if other Neighborhood Board took a position on this issue. Fred said he presented it to the Waikiki Neighborhood Board and they supported the resolution.
- 2) Hurst was concerned that the resolution was too vague (i.e. overpass, underpass). Fred said it would either be an overpass or underpass. Hurst said he would support one or the other, but it's too vague.
- 3) Senator Fukunaga said she and Senator Hemmings are working with DOT. She encouraged Fred, who is a Makiki resident, and others to present this to other Neighborhood Board areas. There is a feasibility study being undertaken. Hurst stated he agrees with the feasibility study. If a vote was taken tonight, he would have to abstain because he hasn't had a chance to speak with his constituents.
- 4) Hedlund mentioned that when a Neighborhood Board endorses a resolution it does make a difference in front of the Legislature.

Hedlund moved and Michaels seconded that the Ala Moana/Kakaako Neighborhood Board No. 11 support a resolution requesting the State Department of Transportation to construct a Lunalilo Street overpass, underpass, or other traffic separation alternative. The motion carried, 6-0-1. Abstain: Hurst.

Pedestrian Safety at Pensacola and Waimanu Streets – Senator Trimble stated he made a comment at last month's meeting that vehicles don't slow down for pedestrians at the intersection of Pensacola and Waimanu Streets. He suggested enforcement by HPD.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Sih said one of the solutions could be a pedestrian-activated traffic signal, similar to King and Pensacola Streets.
- 2) Michaels stated she agreed with Senator Trimble.

Resolution to Request HPD to Aggressively Enforce Parking Ordinance 15-16.6 – Hurst asked the Board to support his resolution requesting HPD to aggressively enforce Parking Ordinance 15-16.6. It's an ongoing problem in the district. He called police a number of times, but hasn't received any positive results. The resolution was submitted last year, but the item kept being deferred on the agenda.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Sih mentioned there is a limousine currently parked in front of her house.
- 2) Michaels said HPD has priorities. Sih noted that after the announcement that officers would be shifting back to an eight- hour, five-day workweek; there have been less patrol officers on the street.

Hurst moved and Kurtz seconded that the Ala Moana/Kakaako Neighborhood Board No. 11 support requesting HPD to aggressively enforce Parking Ordinance 15-16.6. The motion carried, 6-1-0. Nay: Michaels.

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project – Pat Lee circulated information on the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project. For more information, visit www.honolulutransit.org or contact 566-2299. He asked permission to give the Board periodical updates.

HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY/ LIQUOR AND ADULT ESTABLISHMENTS – Hurst stated: 1) Police recently did a second bust on a gambling house that was previously raided. They also conducted a drug bust in the district. 2) He displayed a pin board indicating a list of crimes in Beat 176. A thorough report will be made at next month's meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – Kurtz had no report.

PARKS & WATERWAYS – Hedlund noted that there are many bills in the Legislature that may bring a resolution regarding selling of State land. It's too late in the Legislative session for the Board to take action on her proposed resolution requesting the Legislature to designate a Honolulu Historic Waterfront District from Nu'uuanu Stream to Kewalo Basin and require the appropriate community-based master planning process for this historic district. The resolution needs to go to other Neighborhood Boards. As of tonight, the Diamond Head and Waikiki Neighborhood Boards have supported the resolution.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Sih said she doesn't understand the implication of the historical site. Hedlund stated it would put it under certain protections. Sih mentioned she called the State Historical Preservation. Legislators have nothing to do with Historical Preservation. It has to go to the State Historical Preservation.
- 2) Hurst asked about the position of the Downtown Neighborhood Board. Hedlund answered there has been some conversations. She's bringing it to this Board for discussion. Hurst said he could not support generalities.
- 3) Sih stated that language in the resolution is too vague. Hedlund asked to defer action on the resolution. Michaels agreed. Chair Breinich said this item will be placed on next month's agenda.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Governor's Representative – Dr. Chiyome Fukino circulated the "Governor's Update" and highlighted the following: 1) The State Department of Health (DOH) is being proactive on two pandemics. 2) Hawai'i will be losing MAST service on April 1 because the Army will be taking their helicopters to the Middle East. 3) The Governor is on record supporting the increase in the standard tax deduction.

Senator Carol Fukunaga – Senator Fukunaga circulated her monthly report and highlighted the following: 1) There are lot of bills in the Legislature relating to HCDA. Four bills in the Senate are still alive, which would require more community input. There are other alternatives for Kakaako Makai. 2) She and Councilmember Kobayashi feel there are other alternatives for small businesses on Queen Street affected by HCDA's Improvement District 11. 3) She thanked the Board for participating.

Senator Gordon Trimble – Senator Trimble circulated his monthly report and highlighted the following: 1) Staffing changes in his office include Anne Stevens is was appointed by the Governor to fill Representative's Fox vacant seat; Collin Wong has accepted a position with the Governor's Policy Office; and Kristi Su-Ako was anointed by the Governor as the Narcissus Queen. 2) Bad legislation proposals include – Senator Nakamoto introduced a bill to offer tax credit to teachers (they must be permanent and Hawai'i residents); and Senator Taniguchi introduced a bill to offer \$10,000 in tax credits only to Manoa homeowners. 3) Bill crossover is next Tuesday.

Representative Bev Harbin – Representative Harbin said: 1) She sits on the Water, Land, and Ocean Resources Committee. There are lots of bills relating to Kakaako Makai. She thanked Hedlund for sitting in on the hearings. The House wants HCDA to rescind the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Kakaako Makai, while the Senate wants HCDA abolished. The City does not want HCDA back. Her position is no sale of State property and no residential units.

Hurst inquired about the Harbor 2020 study. Representative Harbin deferred to Representative Stevens.

Representative Scott Saiki – Councilmember Kobayashi circulated Representative Saiki's monthly report.

Representative Anne Stevens – Representative Stevens circulated her monthly report and highlighted the following: 1) Over 250 car and boat batteries was recycled at the Ala Wai Boat Harbor last Saturday. The proceeds will benefit the Waikiki Community Center. 2) Sierra Club Harbor Clean Up will be held on March 18, meet at Harbor's Masters Office, Ala Wai Yacht Harbor, 8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. 3) HB 2651, regarding Liquor Commission procedures, was deferred today. The Judiciary Committee asked the Liquor Commission to submit testimony at a date yet to be determined. 4) Ports in the United States managed by a foreign country is not unusual. She encouraged everyone to follow the issue. In Hawai'i, there may some implications. 5) Regarding the 2020 Plan, the Harbors has partnered with HUGS. They have contracted with a company to do a user study.

Chair Breinich welcomed Manke and congratulated her on being appointed the new Executive Secretary (ES) of the Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO).

Mayor's Representative – Joan Manke reported: 1) She is looking forward to serving as the new ES of NCO. 2) Follow-up items: a) The Hawai'i Occupational Safety and Health Division regulates the firefighter's lockbox for elevator keys. This is a State responsibility. There should be no keys to open rooms of buildings placed into this box. Entry keys are often place in a KNOX box that is secured (the decision to utilize this KNOX box is with the owner of the building); b) There were no violations at Pensacola and Waimanu during the period the area was monitored by patrol officers. They will continue to make periodic checks and take enforcement action when violations are observed; c) Officers made checks on Ilalo Street near JABSOM for several days, but no speeding violations were observed. They will continue to monitor the location and take necessary enforcement action when necessary. 3) Neighborhood Assistant Steve Rodrigues circulated the Mayor's monthly newsletter "Honolulu News".

Hurst asked the status of changing the red light signal light at King and Pensacola to a red light arrow to reinforce left turns are permitted on green arrow only. He reported the concern at November's meeting. Manke will follow-up.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi – Councilmember Kobayashi made available her monthly report on the sign-in table. In addition, she stated: 1) The City Council passed three measures for property tax relief. 2) The Mayor submitted his budget yesterday to the City Council. The budget process will begin in March.

Councilmember Rod Tam – Shawn Hamamoto circulated Councilmember Tam's monthly report.

ADJOURNMENT: By consensus, the Board adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Steve J. Rodrigues,
Neighborhood Assistant